III PRIVILEGE MOTION RE-SUB-EDITORIAL IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS, DATED 14TH MARCH 1969, UNDER THE CAPTION " UPPER CHAMBERS ".

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that Thiru S. Raghavanandam has in his letter, dated the 14th March 1969 sought permission to raise a matter of privilege in regard to a sub-editorial that appeared in the issue of " The Indian Express ", dated the 13th March 1969 entitled "Upper Chambers". He has sonteded that certain passages in the sub-editorial would be a breach of privilege of this House. I have contacted the Editor-in-Chief of the "Indian Express". He has stated that it was never intended to show disrespect to the House or to the hon. Members and he has expressed his regrets and apology if it has caused offence to anyone. In view of this, I withhold my consent to the raising of the matter.

IV CALLING ATTENTION TO TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF SIXTY-FOUR NON-S.S.L.C. SECOND GRADE HINDI PANDITS.

THIRU G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education and Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the termination of the services of sixty four fully qualified non-S.S.L.C. Second Grade Hindi Pandits by the special District Educational Office, Thanjavur, and the consequent hardship caused to such pandits.

THE HON. THIRU S. MADHAVAN : Consequent on the introduction of the two language formula in schools, the Government have passed orders in G.O. No. 477, Education, dated 6th April 1968 in regard to the absorption of Hindi Pandits. According to these orders, all Hindi Pandits will be allowed to continue in service in suitable posts with reference to their qualifications except the following categories of Pandits, viz.—

(*a*) Unqualified Pandits (not qualified for Hindi teaching) and

(*b*) Part-time Hindi teachers.

The Member has drawn attention to the termination of the services by the Special District Educational Officer, Thanjavur, of sixty-four fully qualified non-S.S.L.C. Second Grade Hindi Pandits entitled to protection as per paragraph 12 of the G.O. referred to above. The Director of School Education has reported that in pursuance of the orders of Government referred to above, two months' notice was given to 45 Hindi Pandits, and not to 64 as stated in the Call Attention Notice, employed in the Government (Board) Secondary Schools in Thanjavur and that their services were terminated at the expiry of the two months' period.

Under the existing orders, the minimum qualification for a Pandit,, whether Grade I or Grade II, is Oriental Title in Hindi or Pracharak Diploma of Hindustani Prachar Sabha or equivalent